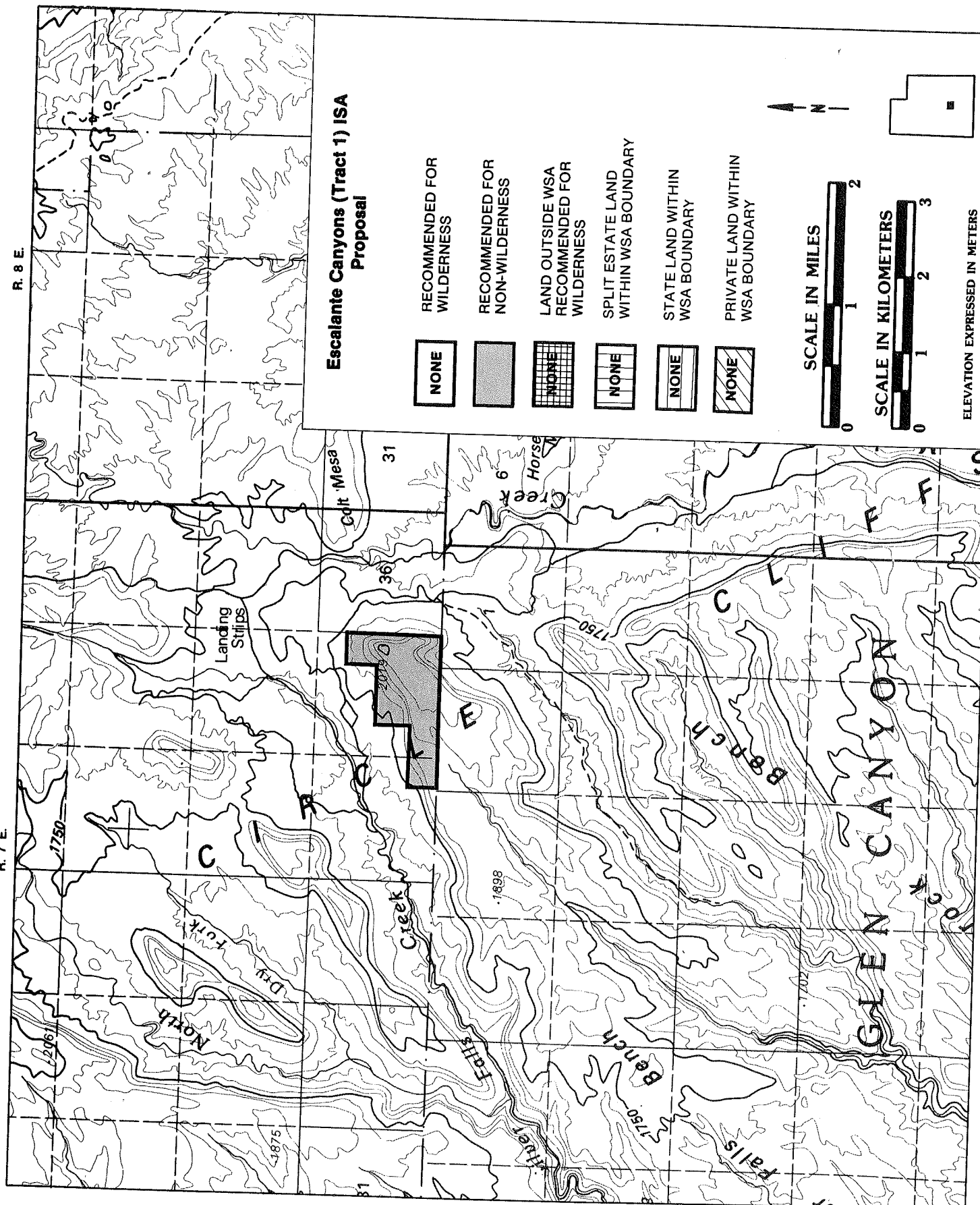


**Escalante Canyons Tract 1**  
**Instant Study Area**

# ESCALANTE CANYONS (TRACT 1) ISA



October 1991

ESCALANTE CANYONS (TRACT 1) OUTSTANDING NATURAL AREA

STATISTICAL SUMMARY  
 ESCALANTE CANYONS (TRACT 1) OUTSTANDING NATURAL AREA  
 GARFIELD COUNTY, UTAH - CEDAR CITY DISTRICT

	Previously Designated Area	Contiguous Lands (if Any)	Total
<u>Acres with Wilderness Characteristics</u>	0	None	0
<u>Acres without Wilderness Characteristics</u>			
Recommended Against Designation	360	None	0
<b>Total</b>	360	None	0

Ownership in Study Area (February 5, 1981)

BLM	360 Acres
Forest Service	0 Acres
Private	0 Acres

RECOMMENDATION  
ESCALANTE CANYONS (TRACT 1)  
OUTSTANDING NATURAL AREA

The Escalante Canyons (Tract 1) Outstanding Natural Area has been found to lack those wilderness characteristics described in the Wilderness Act of September 3, 1964. The Outstanding Natural Area lacks the wilderness characteristics of outstanding opportunities for solitude and for primitive and unconfined types of recreation. BLM recommends to the Secretary of the Interior that Congress find the Outstanding Natural Area (Tract 1) nonsuitable for preservation as wilderness.

District Manager

W. L. Jensen

District Cedar City

Date

4-3-81

ACTING State Director

Dean Stepanch

State Utah

Date

4/8/81

Director

/s/ Robert F. Burford

Date

July 22, 1983

## ESCALANTE CANYONS (TRACT 1) OUTSTANDING NATURAL AREA

### RECOMMENDATION SUMMARY STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATION

Results of Wilderness Characteristics Review: The Escalante Canyons (Tract 1) Instant Study Area does not possess the wilderness characteristics described in the Wilderness Act of September 3, 1964. The ONA lacks the wilderness characteristics of outstanding opportunity for solitude and outstanding opportunity for primitive and unconfined types of recreation. During the wilderness characteristics inventory, 446 acres of contiguous public lands were inventoried for wilderness characteristics. None of the contiguous area possess wilderness characteristics. An analysis of each wilderness characteristic follows.

Naturalness: The unit is natural except for two substantially noticeable ways along the northern border. The area determined to lack the naturalness characteristic contains 41 acres and is in the contiguous public lands. One other way has rehabilitated naturally and is considered to be substantially unnoticeable. The portion of the unit which possesses the naturalness characteristic contains 765 acres and includes all of the ONA.

Outstanding Opportunity for Solitude: None of the ONA offers outstanding opportunities for solitude. The small size of the unit in conjunction with a lack of topographic and vegetative screening precludes outstanding opportunities for solitude. The area north of Silver Falls Bench is relatively flat and contains only scattered pinyons and junipers. The cliffs of Silver Falls Bench are exposed to the rest of the unit and thus offer no opportunities for isolation or seclusion. These factors make it extremely difficult to avoid the sights, sounds, or other evidence of people within the unit.

Outstanding Opportunity for Primitive and Unconfined Recreation: The ONA does not offer outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. The topography limits hiker movement within the unit and the opportunity for activities such as hiking is not outstanding. Rock climbing could occur on the cliffs of Silver Falls Bench, but it would be dangerous and of less than outstanding quality because of the instability of the rock structure.

The Utah State Director published his decision that the entire inventory unit (ONA and contiguous roadless area) lacked wilderness characteristics in the November 14, 1980 Federal Register. All public comments agreed with the State Director's April 1980 proposed decision that the unit lacked wilderness character. No protests were filed and the final decision became effective with publication of a "Notice" in the December 31, 1980 Federal Register. At this time, the contigu-

ous public lands were deleted from the wilderness review and any interim protection responsibility under Section 603(c) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976.

Economic and Social Impacts: A suitability or nonsuitability recommendation is required of the Secretary by the FLPMA. Because the recommendation does not constitute a change in the status or administration of the area, it generates no economic or social impacts. The ONA (Tract 1) has been managed under the interim management stipulations of section 603(c) of the FLPMA and interim management will continue until Congress determines otherwise.

Analysis of Long-Term and Short-Term Effects of the Recommendation: The recommendation is that the Escalante Canyons (Tract 1) ONA is nonsuitable for designation as wilderness. No lists of uses compatible and incompatible with the purposes of designation have been prepared. No long-term and short-term effects are associated with this recommendation.

Options Foregone if Recommendation is Adopted: If Congress does not add the Escalante Canyons (Tract 1) ONA to the NWPS, the option of Wilderness Area status and any possible enabling legislative direction for the area would be lost.

### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Statement on Previous Designation: An approximately 129,000-acre Escalante Canyons ONA was designated on December 23, 1970 by the Utah State Director by virtue of authority vested in the Secretary of the Interior under the Classification and Multiple Use Act of September 19, 1964 and R.S. 2473 (43 U.S.C. 1201), and pursuant to the provisions of 43 CFR Part 2070.

On December 18, 1971, Congress (Public Law 92-207) designated 1,181 acres of the Escalante Canyons ONA as part of the Capitol Reef National Park. On October 27, 1972, Congress (Public Law 92-593) designated 126,659 acres of the Escalante Canyons ONA as part of the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area. Only 1,160 acres in five disjunct tracts and within three discrete roadless areas remain of the Escalante Canyons ONA. Tracts 2 (80 acres), 3 (80 acres), and 4 (320 acres) were inventoried for wilderness characteristics during the inventory of Escalante Canyons (Tracts 2, 3, and 4) ISA. Tract 5 (320 acres) was inventoried for wilderness

## ESCALANTE CANYONS (TRACT 1) OUTSTANDING NATURAL AREA

characteristics during the inventory of the 760-acre Escalante Canyons (Tract 5) ISA.

Significant Resource Data: The cliffs of Silver Falls Bench are a minor part of the Circle Cliffs which have been given a high rating for scenery quality in the BLM's Visual Resource Management analysis. No other significant resources are present within this tract of the Escalante Canyons ONA.

### Summary of Public Participation:

Description of Process: An intensive inventory of the Escalante Canyons (Tract 1) ISA was completed by the Cedar City District Office wilderness staff on March 11, 1980. No public requests for field participation in the inventory were received.

The Utah State Director's proposed decision on wilderness characteristics was announced in the March 28, 1980 Federal Register (page 20576). A supplement to this announcement appeared in the April 24, 1980 Federal Register (pages 27831-27834). The summary narrative and map were published in the BLM Intensive Wilderness Inventory Proposed Wilderness Study Areas, Utah, April 1980 and Errata Sheet. A 90-day public comment period on the proposed decision began April 2, 1980 and ended June 30, 1980.

The Utah State Director published a final decision that the ONA and contiguous lands lacked wilderness characteristics in the November 4, 1980 Federal Register (pages 75602-75606). The decision was also published in the BLM Intensive Wilderness Inventory Final Decision on Wilderness Study Areas, Utah, November 1980 distributed to the public. No protests were filed and the final decision became effective with the "Notice" in the December 31, 1980 Federal Register (pages 86556-86558).

Summary of Analysis of Comments: Two comments were submitted to the Utah State Director concerning the presence or absence of wilderness characteristics in the Escalante Canyons (Tract 1) unit. Both comments agreed with the BLM's proposal that neither the ONA nor the contiguous lands possessed wilderness characteristics. Copies of both comments are in the Permanent Documentation Files.

Cultural Resource Clearance: On February 24, 1981, Dr. Melvin T. Smith, Utah State Historic Preservation Officer, was contacted by letter and informed of the nonsuitable for preservation recommendation for the Escalante Canyons (Tract 1) ISA.

INSTANT STUDY AREA  
WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORY  
DISTRICT PRELIMINARY FINDING

## I. LOCATION

ISA name: Escalante Canyons (Tract 1)  
District: Cedar City State: Utah

## II. SUMMARY:

## A. Results of wilderness characteristics analysis.

1. Does the ISA appear to be natural? X yes      no
2. Does the ISA offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type recreation?      yes X no
3. Does the ISA have supplemental values? X yes      no

## B. Resulting map.

Attach a map showing designated area (and contiguous roadless area if appropriate).

## III. PRELIMINARY FINDING

Check one:

- Entire designated area and contiguous roadless area (where applicable) has wilderness characteristics.
- X Entire designated area and contiguous roadless area (where applicable) lacks wilderness characteristics.
- A portion of the designated area and contiguous roadless area (where applicable) has wilderness characteristics. The restrictions imposed by Section 603 will no longer apply on the remainder of the contiguous roadless area.

## IV. APPROVAL

District Manager: *M. S. Jensen*  
Date: 3-24-80